

## Alaska NAEP Newsletter

# NAEP 2011 Results Show Little Change from 2009



Winter 2012

***“NAEP is all we have. There are no other numbers that are credible for making judgments about the long-term progress of the nation's students.”***

Kevin Carey, policy director of the D.C.-based think tank Education Sector .

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*To learn more about NAEP in Alaska:*

**Alaska NAEP Website**  
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/naep.html>

- See inside for details on a NAEP module for Professional Learning Communities to examine student achievement in Alaska
- The President, Congress, and policymakers use NAEP to develop ways to improve education.
- NAEP provides a common yardstick for measuring the progress of students' education across the country.

Alaska, like most states, had no statistically significant changes on its scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) from 2009 to 2011. NAEP assesses students in grade 4 and grade 8 in reading and mathematics every other year. For the national public score between 2009 and 2011, there was no change for grade 4 reading, a 2-point increase for grade 8 reading, and a 1-point increase for both grade 4 and grade 8 math.

Four states increased their grade 4 reading scores, with a decrease in two states. Ten states had an increase in their grade 8 reading scores. Eight states and the District of Columbia had an increase in grade 4 math scores, with a decrease for one state. Twelve states and the District of Columbia had an increase in grade 8 math scores, with a decrease for one state.

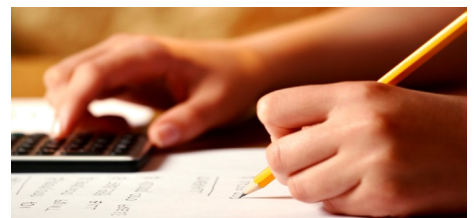
Since 2003, Alaska has increased its NAEP scores for grade 8 reading and for grade 4 and grade 8 math.

NAEP, often called the Nation's Report Card, is the largest national measure of student achievement in the U.S. "We've made major gains in math over two decades, but, in reading, frankly, we haven't — there've been only modest

improvements," said David Driscoll, the chairman of the governing board that oversees the NAEP, of the national results for 2011. However, two decades of math gains were "impressive and consistent," he said.

Alaska has one of the highest percentages of English Language Learners (ELL) among states. For grade 4 reading, Alaska's ELL percentage of 13% places it among the top ten states for ELL percentages and slightly above the national average of 11%. (For grade 4, the state with the highest percentage, California, has an ELL percentage of 31% and the next highest state, Nevada, has a percentage of 27%.) For grade 8, Alaska's ELL percentage of 10% ties it with New Mexico and Nevada; only California, with an ELL percentage of 17%, ranks higher for eighth grade.

About 5,500 grade 4 Alaska students and 4,800 grade 8 students took part in the NAEP reading and math assessments in 2011. This is about half the students in the state for each grade.



# NAEP Reading Item Maps and Percentile Graphs Promote Discussion of Alaska Student Achievement

Many states have been raising the rigor of their English language arts and math standards by adopting new standards. Alaska has also proposed a new set of standards that increase the rigor of its current standards. (The proposed new standards can be viewed at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/regs/>.)

NAEP reading item maps and percentile graphs can help to frame the question of where Alaska is now in terms of student achievement and what needs to be done to raise student achievement.

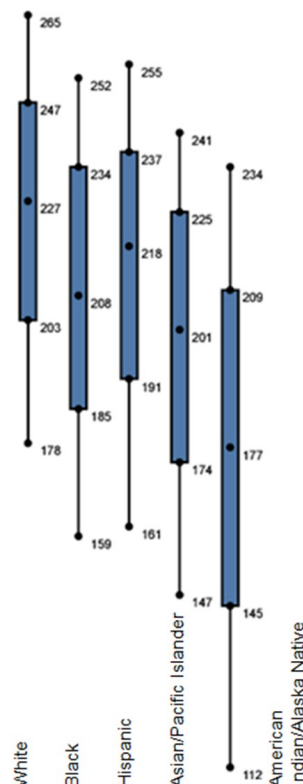
NAEP item maps show what students are achieving by showing actual test questions or items that students answer correctly at different score points. For instance, the reading item map gives an example of a question that grade 4 students who scored a 211 on NAEP probably answered correctly.

NAEP percentile graphs show achievement gaps by showing the scores for students at the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles for each ethnic group. Teachers can see the types of questions students answer correctly at different scores. The percentile graph at right is for Alaska's grade 4 reading results.

Looking at the percentiles graphs and types of questions students answer correctly at the various scores can lead to discussions of the following questions:

- What skills do students demonstrate when they answer the question correctly?
- What does the difference in the types of questions answered suggest about the achievement gaps?
- What are the challenges for increasing academic rigor for all students?

PowerPoint presentations and materials using NAEP item maps and percentiles graphs are posted at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/naep.html>. Educators in professional learning communities can use the



presentation and materials to examine student achievement in Alaska using 2011 NAEP results. The presentation and materials are designed to take about 45-60 minutes to examine and discuss student achievement in Alaska using NAEP data.



Trends in  
International  
Mathematics  
and Science Study  
(TIMSS)  
2011

## 2011 NAEP Will Allow International Math and Science Benchmarking for States

NAEP is conducting a special linking study as part of the 2011 administration that will allow states to see how they compare to other countries that take part in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). The NAEP-TIMSS linking study will give states projected TIMSS scores based on their grade 8 NAEP math and science scores.

TIMSS was first administered in 1995 and is in its fifth cycle. In 2011, more than 60 countries participated in TIMSS. The data from the linking study will be used to evaluate how the knowledge and skills of U.S. students compare to those of their peers in other participating countries.

The NAEP science results will be released in the summer of 2012. The projected grade 8 TIMSS scores for math and science will be released at the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013.

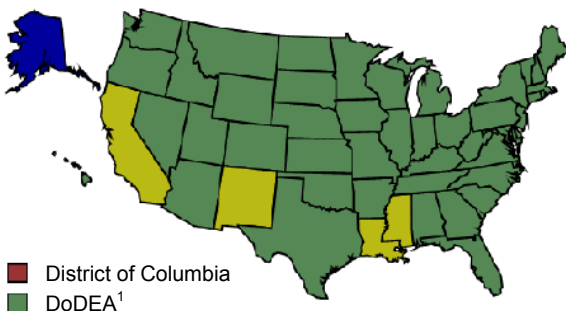
The 2011 science assessment was only the second time Alaska participated in the NAEP science assessment. The first time was in 1996. Students at grade 4 took only the reading and mathematics assessments in 2011.

# NAEP Illustrates Performance among States

All NAEP data is available on the NAEP Data Explorer at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/statecomparisons/>. The NAEP Data Explorer produces maps that are color coded to show which states/jurisdictions have statistically higher scale scores, the same scale scores, and lower scale scores compared to a focus state. Similar maps can be produced for all variables reported by NAEP. The online map is interactive; different states can be chosen as the point of comparison with the click of a mouse. The NAEP collects scores for 52 jurisdictions: the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense schools.

- Green indicates Alaska's score is lower than the specific state/jurisdiction
- Red indicates Alaska's score is higher than the specific state/jurisdiction
- Yellow indicates Alaska's score is not significantly different than the specific state/jurisdiction

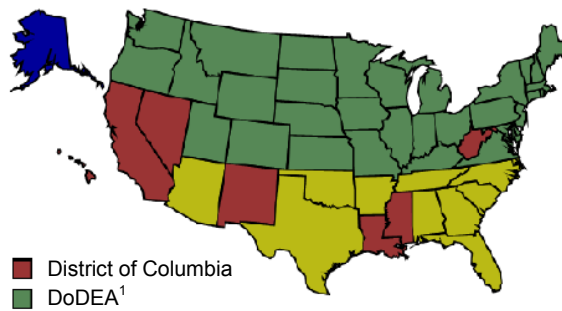
## 2011 Grade 4 Reading



<sup>1</sup>Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

The average scale score of Alaska (208) was lower than those in 46 states/jurisdictions higher than those in 1 jurisdiction not significantly different from those in 4 states

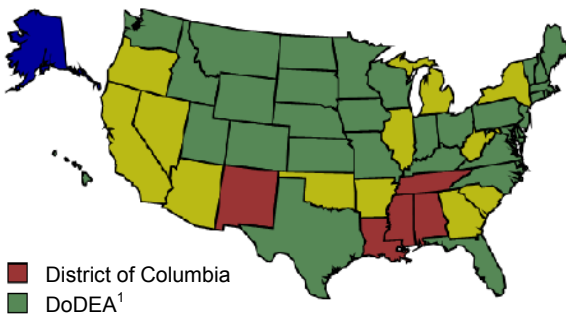
## 2011 Grade 8 Reading



<sup>1</sup>Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

The average scale score of Alaska (261) was lower than those in 33 states/jurisdictions higher than those in 8 states/jurisdictions not significantly different from those in 10 states

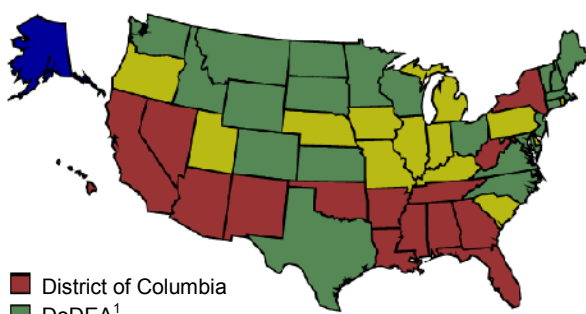
## 2011 Grade 4 Mathematics



<sup>1</sup>Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

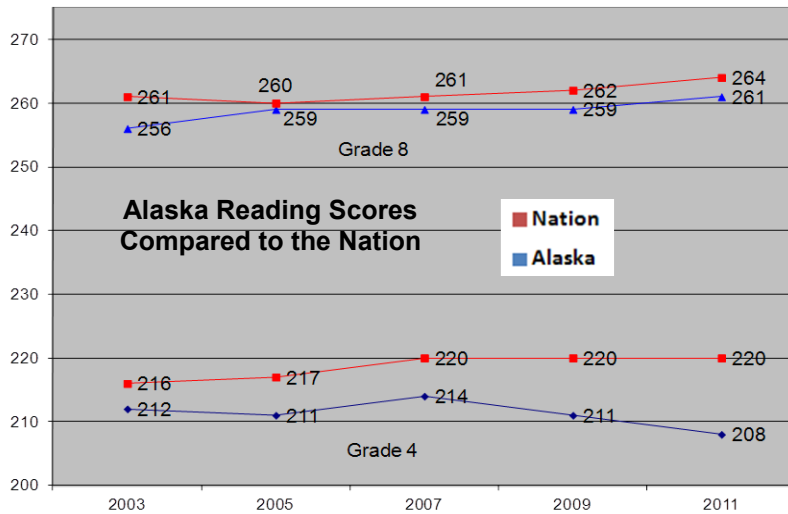
The average scale of Alaska (236) was lower than those in 33 states/jurisdictions higher than those in 6 states/jurisdictions not significantly different from those in 12 states

## 2011 Grade 8 Mathematics



<sup>1</sup>Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

The average scale score of Alaska (283) was lower than those in 22 states/jurisdictions higher than those in 16 states/jurisdictions not significantly different from those in 13 states

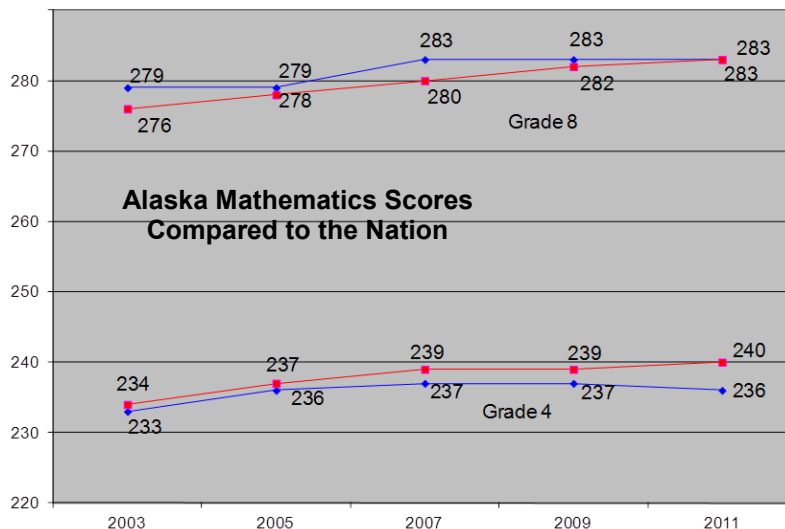
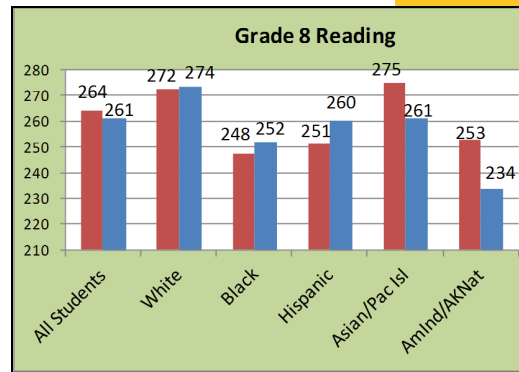
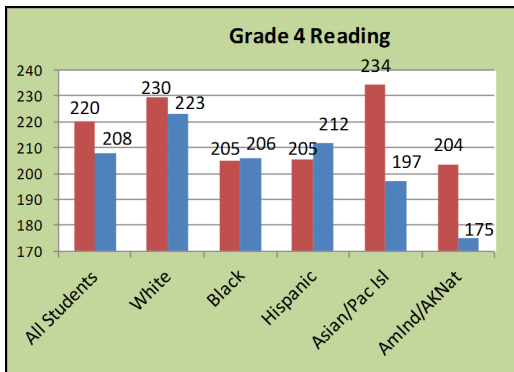


## NAEP Allows State Comparisons to National Scores

The gray charts show Alaska's average scale score for all students compared to the nation's scores from 2003-2011.

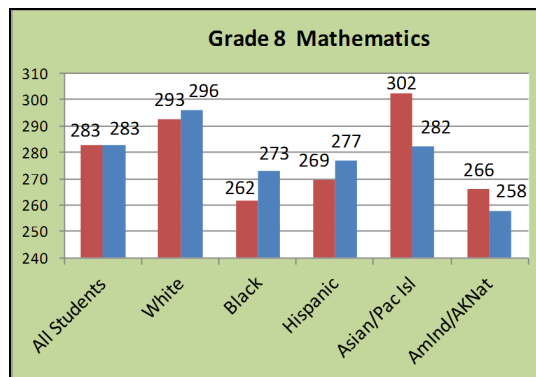
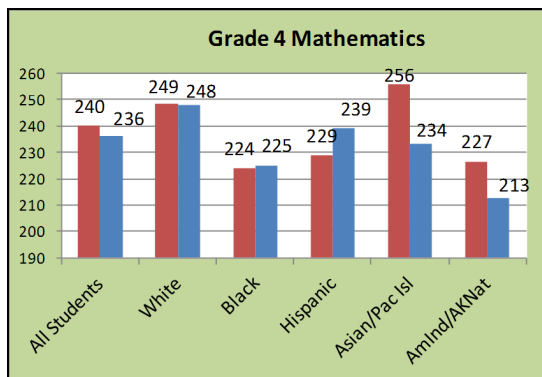
The column charts show the average scale scores for each ethnic group for Alaska and the nation for 2011.

Color coding for charts:



The chart below shows the demographics of the nation and Alaska for 2011.

Gr. 4 Reading	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Isl	Am Indian/ Alaska Native
Nation	52%	16%	23%	5%	1%
AK	50%	4%	6%	8%	23%



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